

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 004313

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 004313 ACTION ANKARA ATHENS BERN COPEN-
HAGEN THE HAGUE HELSINKI LISBON LUXEMBOURG MADRID OSLO STOCKHOLM
VIENNA DUBLIN 8 JAN

QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 004313

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM PFOR MASS XG

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENTAL STUDY OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS SUPPLY
RESTRAINTS

1. IN RESPONSE TO INCREASING CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN, DEPART-
MENT HAS BEGUN IN-HOUSE STUDY OF THE PROBLEM AND PROSPECTS
FOR CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER LIMITATION. SECRETARY RE-
CEIVED IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED OCTOBER 30, 1975 FROM SENA-
TOR CULVER (D.IOWA) AND REPRESENTATIVE SEIBERLING (D. OHIO)
COSIGNED BY 27 SENATORS AND 68 REPRESENTATIVES OUTLINING
THEIR CONCERNS OVER ARMS TRANSFER. CULVER/SEIBERLING LET-
TER PROPOSED US INITIATIVE TO CONVENE INTERNATIONAL CONFER-
ENCE OF MAJOR ARMS SUPPLIERS TO DISCUSS GUIDELINES FOR ARMS
SALES. IN HIS RESPONSE NOVEMBER 28, SECRETARY NOTED THAT
PROBLEM INVOLVED BOTH SUPPLIERS AND RECIPIENTS, AND WAS
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ENORMOUSLY COMPLEX GIVEN ATTITUDES OF BOTH. RESPONSE INDI-

CATED, HOWEVER, THAT DEPARTMENT WOULD CONDUCT STUDY OF POSSIBLE LIMITATIONS ON THE TRAFFIC IN CONVENTIONAL ARMS. STUDY IS NOW IN ITS PRELIMINARY STAGE AND IS BEING ORGANIZED ON A REGION-BY-REGION BASIS. FOR MOST REGIONS, STUDY WILL FOCUS ON RECIPIENT ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES. FOR WEST EUROPEAN REGION, FOCUS WOULD BE ON NATIONAL ROLES AND ATTITUDES AS SUPPLIERS.

2. PARA 3 CONTAINS TENTATIVE OUTLINE OF QUESTIONS WE WOULD HOPE TO COVER IN EUROPEAN REGIONAL STUDY. WE HAVE ALREADY ASKED POSTS IN MAJOR NATO/SUPPLIER CAPITALS TO PROVIDE DETAILED COMMENTS ON OUTLINE. RECOGNIZING MORE LIMITED ROLE OF ADDRESSEE HOST GOVERNMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL ARMS TRADE, DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY COMMENTS ON STUDY. YOU SHOULD NOT RPT NOT APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENTS. WE ARE MOST INTERESTED IN ADDRESSEE ASSESSMENT OF HOST GOVERNMENT POLITICAL REACTION TO ANY INITIATIVE AIMED AT RESTRAINING CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS. AN UP-TO-DATE READING OF THE IMPORTANCE WHICH HOST GOVERNMENTS ATTACH TO ARMS SALES WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL. IF THE QUESTION OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS LIMITATION WERE TO BE RAISED WITH THEM, WOULD THERE BE SOME APPROACHES OR FORMS OF TRANSFER RESTRAINTS WHICH WOULD BE MORE ACCEPTABLE THAN OTHERS? ALSO HOW DO ADDRESSEES BELIEVE HOST GOVERNMENTS WOULD REACT TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SUPPLIERS AND RECIPIENTS ON ISSUE? WOULD THEY PREFER SOME OTHER ARRANGEMENT?

3. OUTLINE - EUROPEAN CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS.

I. INTRODUCTION - HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

II. MAGNITUDE OF CURRENT TRANSFERS

-- GENERAL DESCRIPTION - IMPORTANCE OF ARMS INDUSTRY

-- TO WHOM, FROM WHOM

-- CATEGORIES - SALES, GRANTS, OTHERS

-- EUROPEAN PATTERN VIS-A-VIS OTHER SUPPLIERS (COMMUNIST, SECRET

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US, ETC.)

III. INCENTIVES FOR EUROPEAN ARMS TRANSFER TO THIRD WORLD

-- FOREIGN POLICY INFLUENCE

-- BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

-- EMPLOYMENT

-- RELATION TO NATIONAL DEFENSE EFFORTS

-- OTHER

IV. CURRENT PUBLIC AND OFFICIAL ATTITUDES

-- POPULAR/MORAL ATTITUDES

-- MEDIA ATTITUDES

V. INTRA-EUROPEAN CONCERNS

-- COPRODUCTION AGREEMENTS

-- RIVALRIES IN RECIPIENT AREAS

-- STANDARDIZATION

-- FUTURE EUROPEAN DEFENSE COOPERATION

VI. ALLIED RECEPTIVITY TO POSSIBLE LIMITATIONS

-- COUNTRY BY COUNTRY -- CURRENT NATIONAL RESTRICTIONS

-- DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ALLIES.

VII. POSSIBLE FORA FOR DISCUSSION

-- BILATERAL

-- MULTILATERAL WITH PREDETERMINED INVITEES

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-- NATO

-- PAN-EUROPEAN

-- WORLD SUPPLIERS

-- WORLD SUPPLIERS AND RECIPIENTS

VIII. TYPES OF POTENTIAL GUIDELINES

-- REGIONAL OR GLOBAL

-- SPECIFIC SYSTEM BANS

-- INFORMAL CARTELIZATION

-- PERCENTAGE CUTS

-- FINANCIAL CEILINGS

-- OTHER

4. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ADDRESSEE COMMENTS BY JANUARY 23.

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